

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 HA-05 EB-08 CA-01 CIAE-00  
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PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 STR-07 OES-09  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198191

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, RO, US

SUBJECT: AUGUST 2 CALL ON COUNSELOR OF DEPARTMENT, NIMETZ,  
BY AMBASSADOR NICOLAE

REF: STATE 183761

1. SUMMARY - AMBASSADOR NICOLAE, AT HIS REQUEST, CALLED ON  
COUNSELOR NIMETZ ON AUGUST 2. MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSION  
WERE RECENT HEARINGS ON ROMANIAN MFN, ROMANIAN DESIRE FOR  
MULTI-YEAR MFN, SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES, AND POSSIBLE REPEAL  
OF MCGOVERN AMENDMENT ON VISA WAIVERS. WHILE INDICATING  
SATISFACTION WITH JACKSON'S TESTIMONY AS WELL AS ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY VEST'S, NICOLAE COMPLAINED THAT ISSUES UNRELATED  
TO JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT OR BILATERAL RELATIONS HAD BEEN  
RAISED. HE REFERRED IN THIS REGARD TO ALLEGATIONS THAT GOR  
HAD INTERFERRED WITH ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY US SOURCES TO  
EARTHQUAKE-DAMAGED CHURCHES IN ROMANIA. HE PRESSED HARD ON  
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EARLY DEPARTMENT EFFORT FOR MULTI-YEAR MFN BUT WAS GIVEN NO  
REAL ENCOURAGEMENT BY NIMETZ. ON SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES  
NICOLAE STRESSED GOR STRONG DESIRE TO SEE THEM CONTINUED.  
END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR NICOLAE'S CALL ON NIMETZ DID NOT BREAK NEW  
GROUND. ON MFN, IT AMOUNTED TO A NEARLY VERBATIM RESTATE-

MENT OF WHAT HE HAD SAID DURING HIS JULY 19 MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST (REFTTEL). WITH RESPECT TO MULTI-YEAR MFN, NICOLAE'S ONLY ADDITION WAS THAT SENATORS STEVENSON AND MCGOVERN HAD TOLD HIM THAT THEY WERE ALSO FAVORABLY DISPOSED. TO HIS QUESTION AS TO WHETHER WE COULD EXPECT AN EARLY ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVE TOWARD MULTI-YEAR MFN FOR ROMANIA, NIMETZ REPLIED THAT NEXT YEAR WOULD BE DIFFICULT BUT THIS YEAR IS IMPOSSIBLE. HOWEVER, THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD CONTINUE TO FEEL PULSE OF CONGRESS ON THIS ISSUE. NIMETZ ALSO NOTED THAT DEPARTMENT, AS A MATTER OF COURSE, REVIEWED ITS LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS IN THE FALL OF THE YEAR FOR THE NEXT SESSION OF CONGRESS AND THAT THIS WOULD BE DONE ONCE AGAIN.

3. IN SHORT ASIDE, NICOLAE AGAIN MENTIONED THE CONTINUING PROBLEM WITH EXPORT LICENSES, SAYING THAT THIS HINDERED TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN ROMANIA AND THE UNITED STATES. NIMETZ SAID THAT DEPARTMENT WAS FULLY AWARE OF PROBLEM AND WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR IMPROVEMENT. HE PROPOSED THAT ROMANIA BE PLACED IN A SPECIAL CATEGORY. THIS WOULD HAVE POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE.

4. NICOLAE THEN MADE A STRONG APPEAL FOR CONTINUED SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES WITH THE NSF, STATING THAT HE WAS DOING SO UNDER INSTRUCTIONS. HIS GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, HAD NO DESIRE WHATSOEVER TO "BREAK SCIENTIFIC RELATIONS" WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE ACKNOWLEDGED PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE  
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BEEN EXPERIENCED IN CARRYING OUT THESE PROGRAMS BUT STRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION. NICOLAE ADDED THAT IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH ALL THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM IN VIEW OF ROMANIA'S CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT THAT THE GOR WOULD DO ALL IT COULD TO OVERCOME MANY OF THE OBSTACLES FACED IN THE PAST. EUR/EE DIRECTOR POINTED OUT THAT IN FEBRUARY WE HAD HELD FRANK DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES IN BUCHAREST ON THIS SUBJECT AND HAD EXPLAINED PROBLEMS. NSF HAD MADE CLEAR THAT IF IT DOES NOT SEE ITS PROGRAMS MOVING WITH ROMANIA, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE THEM. NIMETZ SAID THAT ROMANIA SHOULD PLACE HIGH PRIORITY ON THESE SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY CONCRETE PROPOSALS BY THE GOR TOWARD IMPROVING THE PROGRAM. NICOLAE AGAIN EMPHASIZED ROMANIA'S HOPE THAT THE PROGRAM WOULD CONTINUE AND INDICATED THAT HE WOULD WORK TOWARD THIS GOAL. HE SAID THAT, IN THIS REGARD, HE PLANNED TO MEET SHORTLY WITH THE NSF.

5. NICOLAE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS DISAPPOINTMENT AT CURRENT EFFORTS TO REPEAL THE MCGOVERN AMENDMENT ON VISA WAIVERS. HE SAID THAT LITTLE COUNTRIES LIKE ROMANIA WERE BEING HURT

IN THE PROCESS OF PUNISHING BIG ONES, JUST LIKE WHAT HAD  
HAPPENED WITH THE JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT. NIMETZ AGREED

THAT REPEAL WOULD BE A BACKWARD STEP AND POINTED OUT THAT  
THE ADMINISTRATION HAD FOUGHT AGAINST THE REPEAL WHICH  
WAS PUSHED BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS  
AS RETALIATION FOR THE SOVIET UNION'S CONTINUED  
RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL AND SPEECH IN THE USSR BY US  
LABOR UNION OFFICIALS. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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